

REMARKS

Please reconsider this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

- Claims 139-154 are pending.
- Claims 139-154 are rejected.
- Claims 1-138 are canceled.

Applicant has amended the specification, as set out above, to correct minor typographical or grammatical errors. This does not introduce new matter.

Applicant has amended the lead claim by reformatting it. Applicant has additionally substantively amended the claim by adding this limitation: "the hollow body is adapted for removal from the implantable medical device before device implantation". The specification, as filed, supports this limitation. See, for example, page 8, lines 10-13.

Art-based rejections

The Examiner has rejected all of the pending claims as either anticipated by Sahatjian, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,674,192 (D1) or being obvious over Sahatjian.

As amended, Applicant's claim recites that a sheath comprises a hollow body that is adapted for removal from the implantable medical device before device implantation. D1 does not disclose a sheath with this limitation. Therefore, D1 does not anticipate the claims. Moreover, D1 does not contemplate removing a sheath before implantation, but explicitly teaches that the sheath is to remain on during medical device implantation. This constitutes a teaching away from Applicant's invention thereby disqualifying D1 as an obviousness reference for these claims.

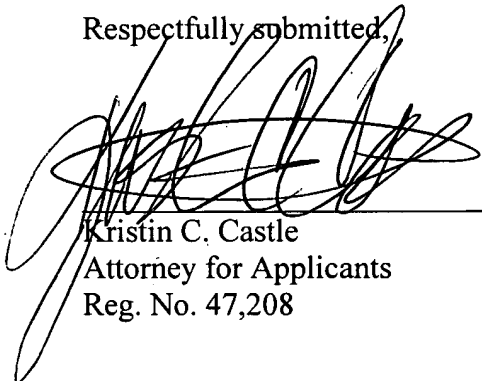
Please remove these rejections.

Since all claims are in a condition for allowance, please issue a Notice of Allowability so stating. If I can be of any help, please contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

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